

Rush Skeletonweed *Chondrilla juncea* L.

Identification:

This perennial plant grows close to the ground before bolting; its basal rosette leaves (sharply toothed, lance-shaped) are similar to the common dandelion. Stems of the mature plant are sparsely leaved approximately 1-4' in height, and appear wiry. The bottom 4-6" of the stem has numerous, red, downward bent coarse hairs. Scattered on its branches at the leaf axils or branch tips, the small (3/4") blossom of bright yellow petals ends with a distinguishing saw tooth shape. Flowering begins in early summer and continues thru fall frost. Stems exude a latex like substance when broken.

Potential Damage:

Spreads on wind currents from roadsides to rangelands to croplands; once in croplands, cultivation is the major mode of spread and control is no longer feasible. It out competes native, beneficial or crop plants; latex sap gums up harvesting machinery.

Control and Prevention:

Take care not to drive or walk through infested areas. Stop and inspect vehicle between patrol units.

MARK infested sites with bright pink or orange

flagging. MARK SITE on map and provide to Refuge Operations Specialist

immediately upon return from field.

Rush skeleton weed is a Class B noxious weed in Washington state and land owners/managers are legally required to prevent the spread of this plant.

Current Status on the Hanford Reach National Monument: Known infestation in the SE corner of ALE, near the junction of Hwy. 240 and Hwy. 225. This area has been patrolled and sprayed annually. **Please be aware and look for this plant everywhere, but especially when on ALE.**

